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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 6, 1989 -- Freight traffic carried on U.S. railroads in 1988 totaled an estimated 997.0 billion ton-miles, up 5.2 percent over the previous record set in 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Freight traffic during the week ended December 31 totaled an estimated 14.6 billion ton-miles, up 7.7 percent from the 13.5 billion carried in the comparable period of 1987. Both years reflected holiday traffic.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 31 totaled 325,438, up 7.9 percent from the comparable week of 1987. Both weeks included holiday traffic. The carloadings in the December 31 week were down 22.3 percent from the preceding non-holiday week. Compared with a year ago, carloadings originated were up 12.1 percent in the West and 3.7 percent in the East.

Cumulative carloadings for 1988 totaled 22,138,557, up 4.8 percent from 1987.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 13 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of metallic ores were up by 10,065 cars (84.0 percent), chemicals and allied products loadings were up 3,129 cars (13.0 percent), and motor vehicles and equipment increased by 1,779 cars (26.3 percent). Seventeen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding non-holiday week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended December 24 totaled 109,859 trailers and/or containers, up 18.9 percent from the comparable week of 1987, which included the Christmas holiday.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 51 weeks of 1988 was 5,629,523 trailers and/or containers, up 3.8 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/31/88:

	Loadings in Week ended December 31, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,694	D	4,296	17.2	D	8,397	28.9
Other farm products	3,000	D	1,248	29.4	D	1,004	25.1
Metallic ores	22,041	I	10,065	84.0	I	1,826	9.0
Coal	87,734	I	4,222	5.1	D	39,057	30.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,844	I	85	1.1	D	2,966	27.4
Nonmetallic minerals	7,736	I	388	5.3	D	548	6.6
Grain mill products	9,006	D	479	5.1	D	1,487	14.2
Food and kindred products	7,548	D	453	5.7	D	2,863	27.5
Primary forest products	7,184	D	293	3.9	D	2,701	27.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,544	D	174	3.0	D	1,761	24.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,218	I	573	4.5	I	1,214	10.1
Chemicals and allied products	27,135	I	3,129	13.0	D	1,327	4.7
Petroleum products	4,380	I	328	8.1	D	652	13.0
Stone, clay and glass products	7,864	I	657	9.1	D	1,218	13.4
Coke	5,939	I	453	8.3	I	511	9.4
Metals and products	8,840	D	585	6.2	D	611	6.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	8,553	I	1,779	26.3	D	11,309	56.9
Waste and scrap materials	5,595	I	495	9.7	D	2,726	32.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	1,613	I	73	4.7	D	245	13.2
All other carloads	63,970	I	9,129	16.6	D	18,068	22.0
Total Cars Loaded	325,438	I	23,848	7.9	D	93,389	22.3
Corresponding week of 1987	301,590						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (52 weeks)	22,138,557	21,133,284	I 4.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
51 weeks ended December 24	982.5	934.5r	I 5.1
Week ended December 31	14.6	13.5	I 7.7
52 Weeks cumulative	997.0	948.0	I 5.2

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